

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the rejection. In line 4 it was unclear what was referred by the use of the word "it." This word has been replaced with the word "support" to make the claim definite. The word "it" was incorrectly interpreted by the Examiner to refer to the cable.

The phrase "and/or the like" considered by the Examiner to render the claims indefinite has been deleted. Claims 1 and 2 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 depends directly from claim 1 and is allowable.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Boissevain et al (US 3,779,003).

Claim 1 has been amended for clarification. This claim is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been amended and is directly dependent on claim 1 and is allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to identify the support as being flexed in the longitudinal direction of the cables. See, Boissevain, col. 4, lines 5-17 wherein stretching

of the electrical cables and hoses is described. In the Boissevain reference, the cable is flexed in the longitudinal direction of the cable. Therefore, Claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by Boissevain et al.

Anticipation requires that there be an identity of invention. Anticipation requires that all elements and limitations of the claim are found within a single prior art reference. There must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure. *Carella v. Starlight Archery and ProLine Co.*, 804 F.2d 135, 138, 231 USPQ 644, 646 (Fed. Cir. 1986). *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 1549, 220 USPQ 193, 198 (Fed. Cir. 1983). *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983). The Boissevain reference lacks the structure as recited in amended claims 1 and 2 and, as a result, fails to anticipate the invention.

Replacement pages 12, 15, and 18 of the specification are being submitted herewith to correct typos. A replacement Abstract is being submitted which is double spaced. No new matter is being added. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for her consideration of this case.

The undersigned invites a telephone call from the Examiner if it would expedite the processing and examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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hole 125 in the supporting portions 121 and 122 are flexed so that it is press-adhered onto the surface of the cable or the like CB.

This cable or the like supporting and guiding device is used as a supporting and guiding device for a cable and/or the like, which connects for example a horizontal boring machine to attached equipment in the same manner as in the cable and/or like supporting and guiding device described with reference to FIGS. 1 to 5.

~~On~~ One end of the link bodies of the chain is connected to a movable end fitting and the other end of the link bodies of the chain is connected to a fixed end fitting. Further the movable end fitting is connected to the spindle head and the fixed end fitting is connected to a bed or column.

When the spindle head is moved, the chain is contracted in accordance with the movement of the spindle head and the spindle head is followed by the power source cable and coolant hose.

Then, since both side portions 127 of the penetration portion 125 in the supporting portions 121 is press-adhered to the power source cable and the coolant hose in a straight section, the power source cable and the coolant hose are secured and supported by the supports 120. Therefore, the cable or the like CB is not slid in the longitudinal direction of the chain and the surface or the cover of the cable and/or the like is not damaged. In a curved section, when force is applied to the power source cable and coolant hose, the support portions 121 are flexed thereby imparting excess lengths to the cable and the hose. Thus straining

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220. Protruded portions 223 are formed on only both side edges of the connecting portions 222. The chain has grooves into which these protruded portions 223 are fitted, on the inside surfaces of the link plates.

Further, one connecting portion 222 has a protrusion 235 on a division plane 233 and the other connecting portion 222 has a recess 236 on a division plane 234. The support portions 231 and 232 form a support 220 by fitting the protrusion 235 into the recess 236, and a penetration portion 225 through which a cable or the like is penetrated and which supports it is formed by two semicircular openings.

The incorporation of the cable and/or the like into the chain is performed by the steps of attaching the support portion 232 onto the chain, placing the cable and/or the like on the penetration portion 225 of the supporting portion 221 of the support portion 232, fitting the protrusion ~~233~~ 235 into the recess 236 to connect the support portion 231 to the support portion 232, and closing the upper connecting rod thereby fitting the groove in the connecting rod to the protruded portion 223 of the support 220.

The cable or the like CB is press-fitted into the penetration hole. Then since the support portion 221 has a large thickness, it is not flexed, and a portion forming the penetration portion 225 in the supporting portions 22, that is an inner wall of the circular opening 225 is press-adhered to the surface of the cable or the like.

This cable and/or the like supporting and guiding device is used as a

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connecting groove on the opposite side edge of another side plate, the connecting rod is fitted into a connecting groove of a front adjacent link, and a connecting groove is fitted onto a rear adjacent link, may be used. Further, a chain in which each of links is connected to a belt material, that is a chain having a structure a belt material of an elastic material is connected to the adjacent link, may be used.

Further, the supports 20, 120 and 220 are composed of single-color thermoplastic elastomer molded forms. However, supporting portions 21, 121 and 221 may be molded in different colors from the connecting portions 22, 122 and 222 so that attachment of the cable and/or the like can be easily made.

Further, the supports 20, 120 and 220 may be composed of another elastomer such as rubber or the like.

Additionally, in Example 1 described with reference to FIGS. 1 to 5, the supporting portion 21 and the connecting portion 22 forming the support 20 are composed of thermoplastic elastomer molded forms. However, the supporting portion 21 and the connecting portion 22 are formed as separate members and a support 20 may be formed by assembling the separate supporting portion 21 and connecting portion 22. Also, in Example 2 and Example 3, each of the support portions 131, 132, 231 and 232 may be formed as different members from the supporting portions 121 and ~~222~~ 221 and the connecting portions 122 and ~~222~~, respectively so that they are assembled as supports 120, 220, respectively.

Effects of the Invention

As described above, the cable and/or the like supporting and guiding device